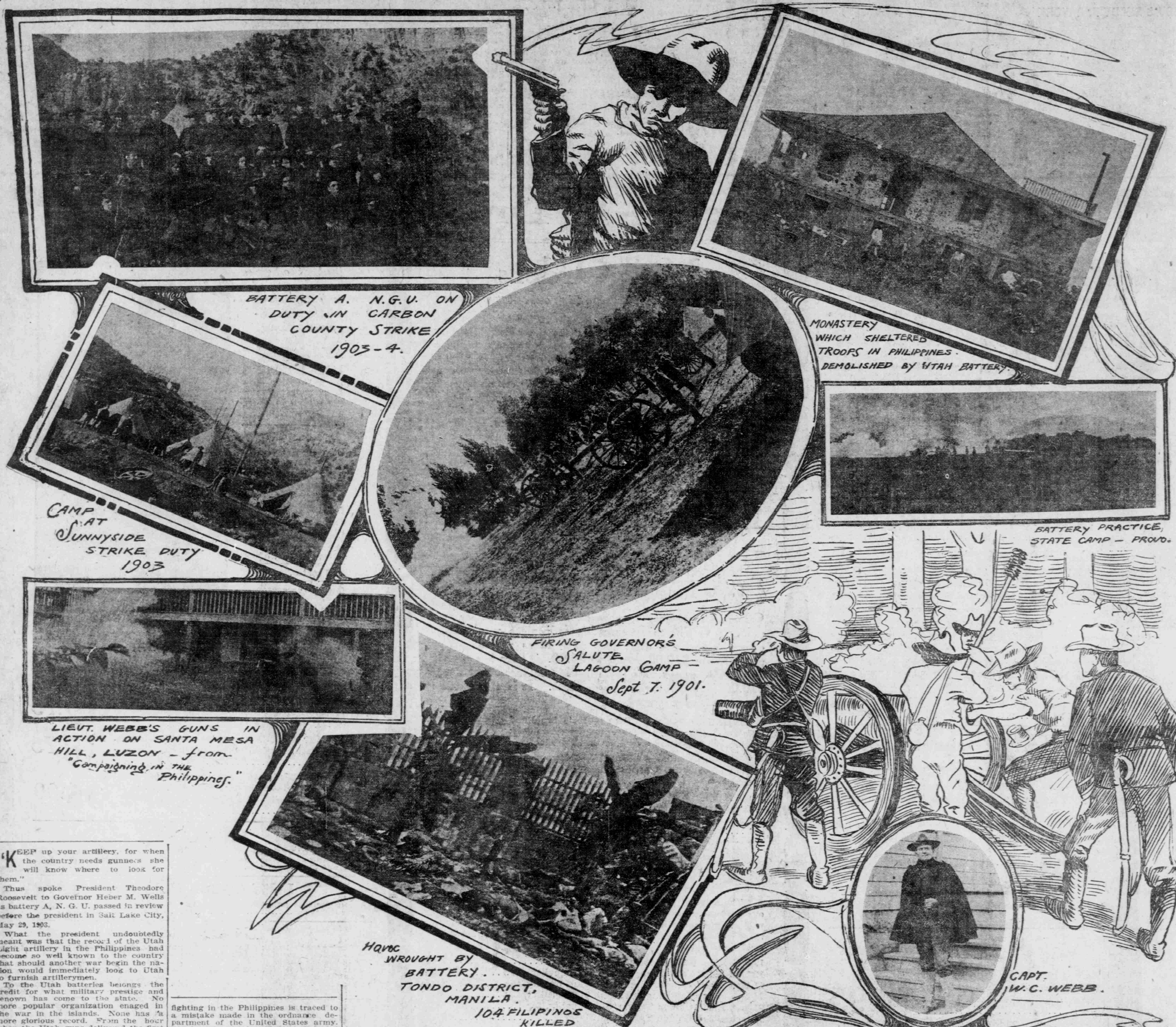


Brought Fame and Honor to Utah, Now in Trouble

STATE'S ARTILLERY, WITH PROUD RECORD, NOW DISORGANIZED, VETERANS LEAVING, BECAUSE OF CONDITIONS IN NATIONAL GUARD.



"KEEP up your artillery, for when the country needs gunners she will know where to look for them."

Thus spoke President Theodore Roosevelt to Governor Heber M. Wells as battery A, N. G. U., passed in review before the president in Salt Lake City, May 23, 1902.

What the president undoubtedly meant was that the record of the Utah Light artillery in the Philippines had become so well known to the country that should another war begin the nation would immediately look to Utah to furnish artillerymen.

To the Utah batteries belongs the credit for what military prestige and renown has come to the state. No more popular organization engaged in the war in the islands. None has a more glorious record. From the hour when the Utah guns delivered the first shell fired at the Spaniards in Manila until eleven months later, the battery men left for home after having taken part in more than seventy engagements, the Utah volunteers earned nothing but honor for themselves and their state. Regular soldiers and volunteers, generals and privates, newspaper correspondents and historians, without a dissenting note unite in praise of the work done by the Utah guns and the Utah gunners.

Almost continuously since 1894 Utah has boasted an artillery organization, first as part of its National Guard, next as part of the volunteer forces and again as part of the National Guard. Always a source of pride to the citizens of the state, the artillery organization has come to hold a place in the sentimental regard of the people of Utah since the war in the Philippines that cannot be shared by a military organization of another character.

Efficiency is Destroyed.

Recent troubles in the First battery, N. G. U., have aroused greater public interest than any event in the history of the guard for several years past. A fear that it may result in the loss to the state of its artillery organization has caused a general inquiry as to existing conditions and the expression of a general desire to know which side is at fault—the officers and men who have retired from the battery, or the agencies which have virtually forced their retirement.

Many of the men who have left the battery have been members for several years. At least one of them served with distinction in the Philippines. All of them, so far as present information goes, have been faithful attendants at drill and encampments, and have attained efficiency as soldiers. The trouble does not, therefore, bring into question their ability or the character of their service, but suggests a condition that may at any moment become general in the guard and threaten its effectiveness, if not its existence.

The chief interest centers around the battery, which has been the favorite organization for so long.

Utah's share in the glory of the

fighting in the Philippines is traced to a mistake made in the ordnance department of the United States army. But for this mistake, the Utah National Guard would have been equipped with muzzle loading cannon when the war with Spain began, the government would not have needed Utah's guns and there would have been no Utah batteries in the volunteer service.

Two batteries were made part of the state military force when the National Guard was formally organized in March, 1894. Battery A was located at Salt Lake City and commanded by Captain George W. Gibbs, later a lieutenant in the Philippines. Battery B was located at Ogden and commanded by Captain Driver. Later the batteries were made a battalion with Captain Gibbs as major. First Lieutenant Fred Palmer was promoted to the captaincy of battery A.

Governor Caleb W. West of Utah territory had worked for a year to secure guns from the war department. When the eight guns arrived it was found that instead of being muzzle loaders, as had been expected, they were 3.2 inch breech loaders of the latest pattern. Immediately the war department telegraphed to have the guns returned, but Governor West, after a hard struggle, managed to secure permission to retain them.

Meet Cockey's Army.

The batteries were popular from their inception. Their first active service came during the year of their enlistment, when they were sent first to Ogden to take charge of "General" Kelley's detachment of Cockey's army, and later to Provo to meet "General" Carter.

Until the year 1898 the batteries continued to flourish. Following the declaration of war with Spain, the batteries were mustered out of the service of the state in order to enable the government to avail itself of the men and the material in Utah.

President McKinley early made it known that Utah would be expected to furnish two batteries of light artillery. Recruiting began April 27, 1898, and by May 4 the full strength of the two batteries had been enlisted. Later the batteries were enlarged and recruits enrolled by Lieutenant E. A. Wedgwood were added.

Officers were named as follows: Battery A—Captain, R. W. Young, First

HQVOC
WROUGHT BY
BATTERY...
TONGO DISTRICT,
MANILA.
104 FILIPINOS
KILLED

Lieutenant George W. Gibbs, Second Lieutenant Ray C. Naylor, Second Lieutenant William C. Webb, Battery B—Captain E. A. Grant, First Lieutenant E. A. Wedgwood, Second Lieutenant O. R. Grow, Second Lieutenant J. F. Critchlow.

While in the Philippines, Captain Young and Captain Grant were promoted to be majors. Lieutenant Critchlow and Lieutenant Wedgwood became captains and Lieutenant Naylor became first lieutenant. Promotions from the ranks made Quartermaster Sergeant Harry A. Young first lieutenant, Sergeants Frank T. Hines and John A. Anderson second lieutenants and Private George A. Seaman second lieutenant.

The batteries were mustered into the service of the government at Fort Douglas, May 9, 1898, by Lieutenant Bryant S. Wells, who is now a captain stationed at the post. The volunteers left Salt Lake on May 20 and sailed from San Francisco for the Philippines on June 15.

Help to Capture Manila.

Each battery was equipped with four 3.2 inch breech loaders, the guns that Utah secured through a mistake. The Utah men reached Manila in time to take part in the fighting that led to the capture of that city. The Utah guns were the first United States artillery to be landed in the Philippines, the first to fire on the city and they delivered the first military salute when General Wesley Merritt made his official landing the day after the city was taken.

The history of the batteries during the fighting with the Spaniards during the campaign that led to the fall of Manila and during the Philippine insurrection that began early in the following year, is well known. At one time the two batteries manned twenty-one guns of various kinds. Utah had the first to fire on the city and they delivered the first military salute when General Wesley Merritt made his official landing the day after the city was taken.

Battery A had seventy-one engagements and Battery B had thirty engagements, not counting minor skirmishes and the fighting on the

gunboats. Nine men were killed in action; fourteen were wounded and six died of disease in the islands.

Former Petition to Governor.

It is interesting to recall at this time, when members of the present battery are being subjected to rather harsh criticism because they presented a petition asking to be mustered out, that the Utah batteries took similar action while on duty in the Philippines. The document was prepared during the period of comparative inaction after the capture of Manila and before the Filipino insurrection began.

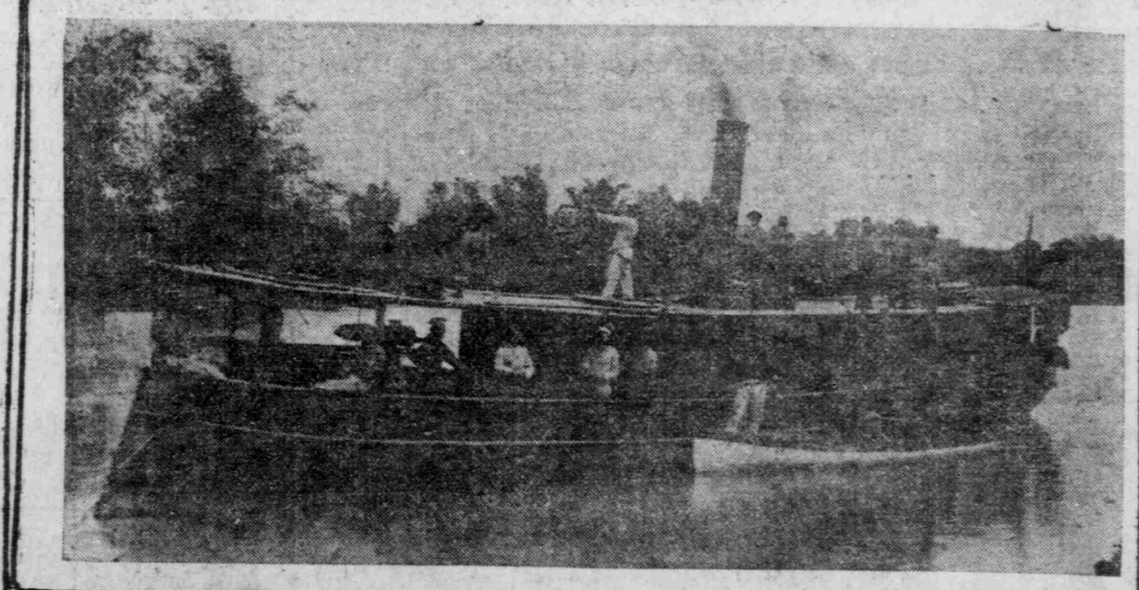
A communication addressed to Governor Wells in January, 1899, after reciting conditions in the islands and bringing out the fact that the batteries had been doing nothing but garrison duty since August 14, concluded as follows:

"We stand ready and willing to do our whole duty, but feel that the necessity for our presence here has passed. Since Manila was occupied, two light batteries of the sixth regulars have arrived, and in the routine duties of garrison life we are of little practical use, the work necessarily falling on infantry."

"Hoping that we have made our position clear, we place the matter entirely in your hands and request that in such manner as you deem proper you secure our recall at as early a date as practicable and consistent. Most respectfully, your obedient servants,

"RICHARD W. YOUNG,
"E. A. GRANT,
"GEORGE W. GIBBS,
"E. A. WEDGWOOD,
"J. F. CRITCHLOW,
"O. R. GROW,
"RAYMOND C. NAYLOR,
"WILLIAM C. WEBB."

Before action was taken in the matter, the trouble with the Philippines began and nothing more was heard of the petition. Up to that time the idea of giving men dishonorable discharges for asking to be mustered out had not been advanced in Utah, nor did anyone accuse the battalions of disloyalty or violation of their oath of



"IMPROVISED GUNBOAT 'CAVAYONG' ARMED AND MANNED BY THE UTAH BATTERY."

allegiance. Similar petitions were prepared by other volunteer organizations of Utah during the year 1898 without results to the disadvantage of the signers.

The batteries returned to Salt Lake on August 18, 1899. They were mustered out at the Presidio on August 16, but retained their organization in order to participate in the celebration that had been arranged in their honor. The date of their arrival in Salt Lake City was made a public holiday and was one of the notable events in the history of the city and state.

After a brief period of rest, leading members of the volunteer batteries be-

gan to work for a battery as part of the National Guard, which was in process of rehabilitation at the time the batteries returned from the Philippines. The campaigning in the islands had lost to the state the famous guns that had done such wonderful work. The government retained the eight guns that Utah contributed, so the possession of new guns was a necessary preliminary to the reorganization of the National Guard batteries.

These guns could not be secured at once, so a company of infantry, containing many of the volunteer artillerymen, was formed as company G of the first regiment. Captain O. R. Grow,

First Lieutenant W. C. Webb, Second Lieutenant Nelson E. Margetts and Second Lieutenant W. E. Kneass were elected officers. All these men had served in the Philippines. This company was mustered into the guard on August 27, 1900. It went into camp ten days later and almost immediately after the encampment, the pressmen equipment of six 3.2 inch guns with the necessary auxiliaries was received. The equipment of the battery is superior to that of many batteries in the regular service. The guns are of the model of 1887, and are surpasser

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